

RESPONSE AND ARGUMENTS

There are no amendments to the specification or the claims. Claim 1 is pending in this application.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Kaufman(4624459) in view of Koza et al. (4582324).

Kaufman discloses a slot machine game in which the player can receive multiple payouts, instead of the standard payout shown on a pay table, for achieving a winning outcome. There are apparently two ways in which the player may achieve these multiple payouts:

1 - The gaming machine keeps track of how many winning outcomes the player has achieved and this accumulated count is shown on a win counter. Prior to each spin of the slot reels, a random number generator selects a number. If that number is equal to the number shown on the win counter, then the player receives a multiple payout if the player achieves a winning outcome on that spin. If a winning outcome is not achieved, then there is no multiple payout, the win counter does not increment, and a new number is randomly selected for the next spin of the reels.

2 -- The gaming machine keeps track of how many winning outcomes the player has achieved and this accumulated count is shown on a win counter. A random number generator selects a number representing the number of wins that are needed to trigger a multiple payout. When the number of wins on the win counter is one

less than the randomly selected number, the gaming machine illuminates a signal to the player that the next winning outcome will receive a multiple payout.

In either version of the Kaufman game, the player does not proceed to a bonus round when an outcome of the spin of the reels indicates that the player has won a bonus round.

Claim 1 specifies that a bonus round is awarded to the player when the outcome of the spin of the reels so indicates. This feature is well known in the art. However, Claim 1 goes on to specify that the amount to be won by the player is selected prior to the player participating in the bonus round. Then the player participates in an apparent game of skill or knowledge as the bonus round. At the end of the player's participation in this apparent game of skill or knowledge, the player is awarded the pre-selected bonus amount.

Kaufman does not have a bonus round of any kind.

The Examiner relies on Koza for the teaching of an apparent game of skill at the end of which the player receives a predetermined payout.

Koza discloses a lottery system that utilizes a plurality of display terminals connected to a central computer. The player is given the illusion that he is playing a skill game; in reality the player is merely participating in a lottery. The player buys an entry in the lottery and, prior to the apparent game of skill

occurring, the amount won by the player is determined by the gaming controls.

The player then engages in what appears to be a game of skill - such as the Lady and the Tiger or a game of shooting down spaceships. Because the amount won by the player has been predetermined before the apparent game of skill starts, the player continues to play the displayed game until the player has achieved an outcome suitable to the predetermined award -- regardless of how good or bad the player is at playing the game.

Koza is not a casino game - Koza is simply a lottery with the amount won by the player, if any, displayed to the player as an apparent game of skill.

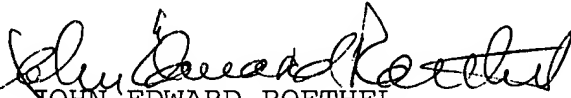
Claim 1 requires that the player make a wager and participate in a game of chance. The game of chance results in an outcome. One of the outcomes may award the player a bonus game. The bonus game has a predetermined amount associated therewith which is displayed to the player as an apparent game of skill or knowledge.

Kaufman does not have as any of its outcomes during the play of the casino game that the player can win a bonus game. Koza does not have as any of its outcomes during the play of the lottery that the player can win a bonus game. The combination of Kaufman and Koza does not teach or suggest a casino game in which as any of the outcomes during the play of the casino game is that the player can win a bonus game.

Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Kaufman and Koza.

Applicant submits that Claim 1 now pending in this application is allowable over the prior art of record and the Examiner is requested to reconsider his rejection of Claims 1 and to find that this claim is now allowable. If the Examiner has further questions regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to call undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Edward Roethel", is written over the printed name and title.

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